

ILLINOIS FAMILIES Now and Forever

Families by Foster Care, Adoption and Guardianship®

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services



From the DCFS Director

Bryan Samuels

The Fiscal Year 2005 budget of \$1.4 billion is \$23 million less than Fiscal Year 2004 budget. However, with reduced caseloads, the Department will be able to concentrate on the quality of care rather than the quantity.

The Integrated Assessment Program received \$8 million to identify a youth's needs and make appropriate matches to resources at the start of a case. Additionally, DCFS will be responsible for \$123 million previously administered by the State Board of Education to work directly with all school districts on improving educational outcomes for DCFS students.

Other highlights include:

- \$15 million increase in funding for adoption subsidies
- \$3 million to create a monitoring unit for residential treatment programs
- \$20 million for enhanced services DCFS will include in its program improvement plan to the federal government.

In this tough fiscal climate, DCFS will allocate resources to programs and services that support our mission and demand more accountability.

Integrated Assessment aims to find solutions on the front-end

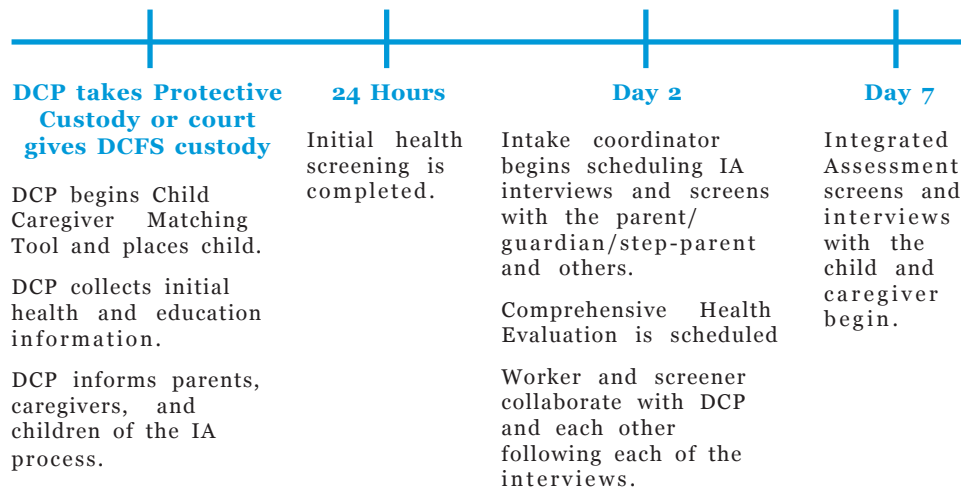
The Integrated Assessment Program is a bold move to change the way DCFS helps children from the time they first come into care. Under the new program, each child that comes into DCFS custody will have a thorough set of clinical and functional screenings done by a licensed clinical professional working with the permanency worker. The results will provide necessary information to identify the child's needs early in the case and develop a comprehensive service plan to address those needs.

The assessment covers many areas of a child's and his family's life, including medical, developmental and behavioral/mental

health needs. Additionally, birth parents, caregivers and other relevant individuals will be interviewed to determine the types of community and social supports they need to bring about the appropriate permanency outcomes. The screenings include the following assessments:

- Safety/risk assessment
- Initial Health Screening and Comprehensive Health Evaluation for children
- Adult substance abuse screens
- Domestic violence
- Early childhood developmental screens for children five years old or younger
- Clinical/behavioral health screens for children over age six

Continued on Page 4



Start planning summer camp fun for kids and families

Summer camp is a great way for kids to learn new skills and come to appreciate new environments. However, the fun doesn't have to be saved just for kids. As you make summer plans for the children in your home, think about family camp for everyone.

Family camp can help bring children and parents together in a rewarding, relaxing setting. Like a typical summer camp, family camps offer a choice of activities ranging from crafts to sports. But instead of the little camper bringing home one back scratcher made entirely of pinecones, the whole family could make a matching set together. Fortunately, most family camp activities are optional, so campers can elect to just hang out or go for a walk.

No matter how you decide to spend your time, the key word at family camp is together. However, many camp programs understand that family members can benefit from some separate "together" time. Therefore, age-appropriate, supervised activities are available for kids, so parents can have a bit of a respite before everyone comes back together around the campfire later that evening.

Family camp can be a way to build memories away from the hectic pace of school, work, doctor appointments and therapy sessions. Camp may even be therapeutic, as you could find yourself talking with your teen

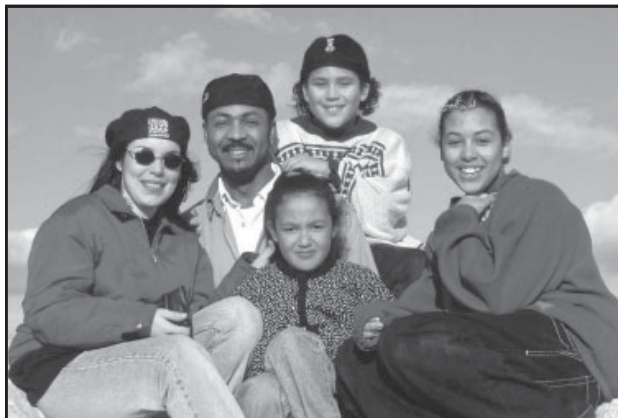
and actually getting more than a one-syllable response.

A trip to the woods where there is no TV or telephone can be very cost-effective as well. While accommodations can range from rustic to resort-like, average prices range from \$60 for a weekend to \$350 for a week. A camp facility may provide meals or have amenities to allow families to fend for themselves. Some camps will offer sliding fee scales so that financial hardships don't keep families from enjoying the family camp experience.

To find a family camp that suits your needs, interests and budget families can check out the American Camping Association's listing of 2,000 accredited camps. The camps can be searched by type, location, cost and other criteria. Call 765-342-8456 or visit www.acacamps.org.

Getting children ready for summer camp

First, talk to your caseworker to determine what your child needs and what resources are available for summer activities. DCFS foster families should ask about the financial assistance available, the approval process and reimbursement procedures. For private agency foster families, the policy can differ from agency to agency. Every agency receives



funds for "nonrecurring expenses" such as camp for some children. Ask your child's caseworker about the camp policy for kids in your agency.

Next, talk to your children about camp and the type of camp experience they are looking for. Your caseworker can help in presenting camp options in a positive way and in uncovering any issues around camp. Together you can work to find the right camp that matches expectations with what is needed and available.

Where to begin looking:

- Ask people you know, such as other foster parents or school parents for recommendations.
- Your child's school may have a local camp for sports or academics. Also check out higher education institutions for special programs for elementary and high school children.
- Your local church may have a youth camp or even a youth

group that may take a small trip. (Be sure to ask about birth parent permission for a religious program).

- Ask your child's caseworker for information on special needs camps focusing on ADHD or physical and developmental disabilities.
- Check organizations like the YMCA, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for local camps.
- Contact the DCFS Local Area Network (LAN) liaison in your region for community-based programs.

Additional resources:

Here are a few more resources to help you search for the camp experience you are looking for.

Kids Camp at www.kidscamps.com

In addition to information on overnight or day camps, you can also look at camps for kids with special needs, including: develop-

mental disabilities, diabetes, epilepsy, learning disabilities/ADHD, military camps, oncology, physical disabilities, speech/hearing impairments, visually impaired, or weight loss.

Day Camps.net

Daycamps.net is a comprehensive listing of summer day camp web sites in the United States and Canada. You can search by city and state. The site also includes listings of camp employment for teens and adults.

Local Sports Camps at www.localsportscamps.com/illcounties.htm

This site offers information on sports programs at universities and sites across the state. Activities include soccer, hockey, softball, baseball, basketball, wrestling, volleyball, tennis, swimming/diving, golf, football and cheerleading.

Chicago Park District www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

The Chicago Park District offers an extensive list of day programs for children ages six to 12 that run all summer, as well as short-term special interest camps. The programs range from sports to nature and the environment to arts and culture.

Don't forget!

- Check with your caseworker regarding reimbursement procedures.
- Make sure you have proof of a current physical before registration.
- Ask about policies for dispensing medications at camp.
- Ask your caseworker about the policy for traveling to an out-of-state camp.
- Send your camper off with stationery and stamps so you can receive letters.
- Send a letter to your camper early so it will arrive on the first day of camp.



Many parks offer therapeutic programs for children with special needs. Before and after care is also available in many cases. Programs and prices vary by site, so check the park near you for details. Call 312/742-PLAY or check the Chicago Park District website for more information.

Integrated Assessment, con't.

At the end of 45 days, the assessment process culminates with a comprehensive report to drive the service plan. The service plan will come together with input from the caregiver and birth parent at a Family Meeting. Foster parents are an important part of the team. They are encouraged to participate in the family meeting, given the permission of the birth parents.

Foster care providers may find some welcome changes to the new process. For example, because the information gathering is so heavily geared to the front-end, caseworkers should have more information to share with the substitute caregiver sooner. Additionally, the caregiver will have formal input into the service plan. Within the 20 days of placement, the clinician and caseworker will come to interview the child and the caregiver at the foster home. This interview serves as an opportunity to see

how the child is adjusting and if the foster family has the resources it needs to make the placement successful for the child.

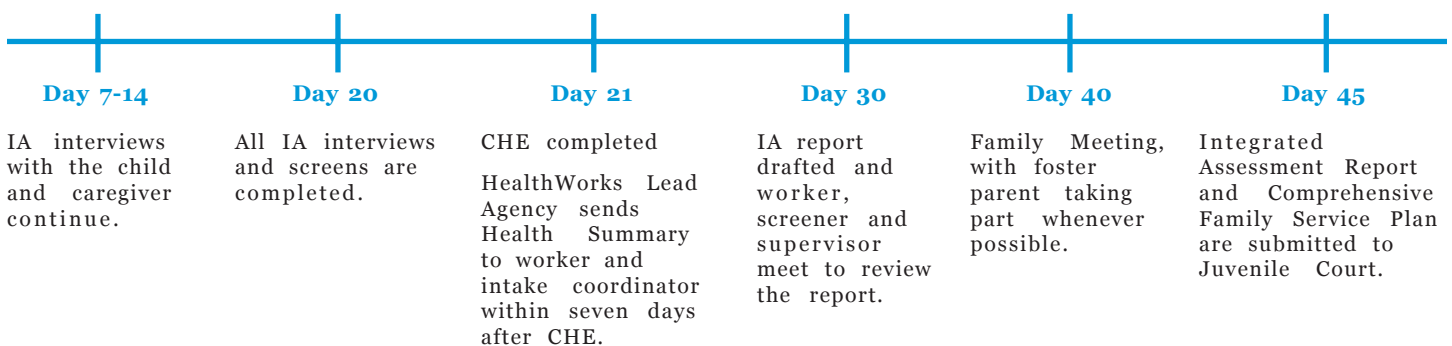
Another change that will impact foster parents concerns the Comprehensive Health Evaluation (CHE). In the past, foster parents have typically selected a physician and taken the child in for the evaluation.

Under the new program, only specific health care providers will conduct this specialized exam. Just for the CHE, foster parents will have to select a physician from the list of providers located throughout their region. These physicians will be trained on the evaluation and its forms and procedures. They will also serve as the link to the HealthWorks agency that will coordinate maintaining the child's permanent medical records while in care. After the CHE, foster parents can choose the health providers for

any subsequent medical treatment, just as they have in the past.

For several years, the department has been working on the model for the Integrated Assessment Program. In January of this year, it was implemented first in Cook County for new cases managed by DCFS Cook regions. This required hiring staff to coordinate the intake process and conduct the screenings. The remaining regions are planned for rolling implementation throughout the state before the year's end. Private agencies, which will manage the bulk of cases, began training at the start of the year. Additionally, the assessments will be offered for existing cases of children who demonstrate high-end needs. Eventually, the program will include assessments for all children entering care.

Questions about the program can be directed to Frances Cunningham at 312-814-4153.



2004 Reader Survey

Please help us make sure Families Now and Forever offers what you want to know. After circling your answers on **both** sides, simply fold, seal and mail the survey back. Or visit the DCFS website at www.state.il.us/dcfs to fill it out on-line. You may also fax both sides to 312-814-4131. Thank you in advance for your input.

CIRCLE: 1=great interest 2=some interest 3=no interest X=not applicable

Working Within the Child Welfare System

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 2 3 X Foster care rules/procedures | 1 2 3 X Child and family teams |
| 1 2 3 X Adoption rules/procedures | 1 2 3 X Confidentiality |
| 1 2 3 X Guardianship rules/procedures | 1 2 3 X System of care service network |
| 1 2 3 X Governmental rules/legislation | 1 2 3 X Integrated assessments |
| 1 2 3 X Licensing policy | 1 2 3 X Intake/Child investigation process |
| 1 2 3 X Obligations of foster parents | 1 2 3 X Juvenile Court |
| 1 2 3 X Recruiting foster/adopt families | 1 2 3 X Resolving DCFS/agency disputes |
| other topics/comments: _____ | |

Adoption and Guardianship

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 2 3 X Financial implications | 1 2 3 X Subsidy agreement |
| 1 2 3 X Advocating for the adopted child | 1 2 3 X Rights and responsibilities |
| 1 2 3 X Obtaining community resources | 1 2 3 X Accessing free post-adopt services |
| other topics/comments: _____ | |

Medical and Mental Health

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 2 3 X Depression | 1 2 3 X Developmental disabilities |
| 1 2 3 X Attachment disorders | 1 2 3 X Medically-fragile children |
| 1 2 3 X Eating disorders | 1 2 3 X Sexual abuse |
| 1 2 3 X Self-esteem | 1 2 3 X Resources for medical specialties |
| 1 2 3 X Fetal alcohol/drug exposure | 1 2 3 X Resources/info for dental services |
| 1 2 3 X Asthma | 1 2 3 X Resources for mental health |
| 1 2 3 X Diabetes | 1 2 3 X Using the Public Aid medical card |
| other topics/comments: _____ | |

Education

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 2 3 X Working with schools/teachers | 1 2 3 X Tutoring |
| 1 2 3 X Special education services | 1 2 3 X DCFS Education Advocates |
| 1 2 3 X Scholarships | 1 2 3 X Education after high school |
| other topics/comments: _____ | |

Age-related Topics

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 2 3 X Early childhood intervention | 1 2 3 X Independent Living |
| 1 2 3 X Tantrums, biting, aggression | 1 2 3 X Services for teens e.g. |
| 1 2 3 X Safety (home, playground, school) | 1 2 3 X Housing for transitioning teens |
| 1 2 3 X Pre-teen sexuality | 1 2 3 X Youth Advisory Boards |
| 1 2 3 X Teen sexuality | 1 2 3 X Runaways |
| other topics/comments: _____ | |

Family Life

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 2 3 X Behavior management/discipline | 1 2 3 X Foster/adoptive family networking |
| 1 2 3 X Sibling rivalry | 1 2 3 X Family traditions/activities |
| 1 2 3 X Impact of placement changes | 1 2 3 X Camps |
| 1 2 3 X Handling stress | 1 2 3 X Arts, music, sports activities |
| 1 2 3 X Family therapy/counseling | 1 2 3 X Travel |
| 1 2 3 X Self-care for parents | 1 2 3 X Free services, products |
| other topics/comments: _____ | |

Tell us how you feel about the regular features currently offered in each issue:

1=great interest

2=some interest

3=no interest

X=not applicable

Regular Features

1 2 3 X Family for Me photos of children

1 2 3 X Director's Message

1 2 3 X From the Files

other topics/comments: _____

1 2 3 X Foster/Adoptive parent profiles

1 2 3 X Tell It Like It Is question/answer

1 2 3 X Regional edition insert

Fold here _____

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100 W. Randolph, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Fold here _____

Please tell us about yourself:

_____ # foster children currently in your home

_____ # children you have adopted

_____ relative caregiver

_____ private agency supervised home

_____ # foster children previously in your home

_____ # children you have taken guardianship of

_____ caregiver to non-related children

_____ DCFS office supervised home _____ DCFS/agency staff

Circle your DCFS region: Cook Central Cook North Cook South Southern Northern Central

Would you be interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail? Yes No

Would you be interested in reviewing the newsletter on the DCFS website? Yes No

What do you like **best** about the newsletter? _____

What do you like **least** about the newsletter? _____

Other comments: _____

Please offer your Name, Address and Phone Number, if you wish.

Statewide Advisory Council Bulletin

Two new members join Council



Johnnie Simon

Johnnie Simon

Johnnie Simon was appointed by Director Samuels to represent the Cook South Region. She has been fostering for more than 36 years. Simon and her husband adopted one-year-old twins, and those twins are now 26 years old. They also have a 10-year-old child through adoption and continue to provide foster care for a child with special challenges. Simon is also an active member of the Cook South Regional Foster Care Advisory Council.



Ruth Jajko

Ruth Jajko

Director Samuels appointed Ruth Jajko to the Council as a foster parent representing the DCFS Child Welfare Advisory Council (CWAC). In addition to her commitment as a foster parent, Jajko also works at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. She is the Associate Executive Director for Program Support responsible for recruiting, training, licensing and supporting foster parents. Jajko is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Confidentiality concerns

The Statewide Advisory Council continues to address the concerns

around confidentiality at schools when a child is identified as a victim in an allegation of abuse and neglect. School districts around the state appear to have varying methods for handling records. Members of Statewide are conducting interviews with school administrators to see firsthand how confidentiality is protected. The Council will then work with the Illinois State Board of Education to ensure that the confidentiality of children in DCFS care is protected.

Implementation Plan monitoring

The Statewide Council is mandated to review each foster care agency's annual Implementation Plan, as outlined in the Foster Parent Law. The Council recently put into practice a new process for monitoring the plans. Council members developed a protocol for interviewing agency staff and foster parents to see how the agencies and regions implement the rights and responsibilities contained in the Foster Parent Law. The DCFS Agency Performance teams will assist in these reviews.

Contact the Office of Foster Parent Support at 217-524-2422 with any questions about the Council or check the Council page on the DCFS website at www.state.il.us/dcfs.

New policy says only three unrelated children in foster home

In February, Director Samuels announced an unexpected change to policy to keep the number of unrelated foster children in a home to no more than three. The move was in response to research that showed children placed in homes with more than three unrelated foster children may be more likely to experience multiple moves.

"By limiting the number of unrelated foster children placed in homes, we are customizing and refining the system to better care for children," said Samuels.

At the time of the announcement, the policy affected less than one percent of the total foster care population who were living in homes where there were four or more unrelated foster children. Those homes would not be affected by the new rule. Children by birth or adoption do not count against this new limit.

For new placements, DCFS will continue to emphasize matching the child with the right caregiver. This policy, combined with the Integrated Assessment Program, is expected to better utilize resources and bring better outcomes for the children in care. Specific questions about the policy can be directed to the licensing representative or the Office of Child and Family Policy at 217-785-1983 or cfpolicy@state.il.us.



Adoption Study for Teens

Adoption researchers at Illinois State University want to learn more about how adoption affects youth. The Center for Adoption Studies and Attachment Lab would like to interview youth adopted from child welfare who are 15-17 years old. The study will focus on finding out more about factors that lead to positive adoption adjustment, particularly the topics of attachment and identity.

Participants will be compensated for their time with a \$25 gift card to Old Navy. Interested individuals will be invited to an adoption agency in your local area for the study. The study will take approximately two hours to complete. The adolescent will be given an interview, and both the teen and a parent will be asked to complete a set of questionnaires.

Prospective volunteers or those with questions can contact the Center for Adoption Studies at 309-438-8628 or send an email to: kkwoodm@ilstu.edu. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message stating that you're interested in the "Adopted Teen Study," and leave your name, address, and phone numbers.

Illinois Adoption Advisory Council News

The Illinois Adoption Advisory Council of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) was created with the objective of advising and consulting with the Director of DCFS or his/her designee(s) on all matters involving or affecting the provision of adoption and guardianship services. The council meets bi-monthly in locations that rotate throughout the state.



*Elizabeth Richmond,
co-chair*



*Jim Jones,
co-chair*

New Rules for Adoption Subsidies

Earlier this year, DCFS adopted new rules for adoption and guardianship subsidies. The Illinois Advisory Council members reviewed the rule and the accompanying procedures to make comments. The DCFS working group that developed the policies will work to incorporate any necessary changes from the advisory group.

Criminal Bars

The Adoption Advisory Council continues work with its foster care counterpart to make a proposal on criminal bars to foster parent licensure. The goal of this committee is to take a hard look at what can be done to eliminate barriers to prospective foster/adoptive parents, while ensuring the safety of children. The committee will be working with the DCFS Office of Legal Counsel, the Office of Licensing, and the Legislative Office on this important issue.

Sibling Rights

The IAAC invited members of the Statewide Youth Advisory Board to discuss its proposed legislation for a Sibling Bill of Rights to preserve sibling connections even after adoption. The Council expressed its admiration of the youth for crafting a draft resolution calling for a governmental task force to examine the issue. The Adoption Council voted to support the youth in their effort as they jointly look for a middle ground that takes into account the best interest of the child and the adoptive family.

The next meeting of the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council is June 4 at 10 a.m. in Bloomington at the Quality Inn, 401 Brock Drive.

Call the Office of Foster Parent Support Services at 217-524-2422 for more information or visit the web site at www.state.il.us/dcfs.



Supreme Court issues new rules for TPR appeals

An Illinois Supreme Court committee at the end of last year issued changes to the procedures for handling appeals cases that involve termination of parental rights (TPR), child custody or visitation. The changes were designed in part to alleviate delays in adoption proceedings when a birth parent appeals the termination of their parental rights. The Court also wanted to avoid potential complications if an adoption moved forward, while a birth parent's TPR appeal were still pending.

As a result, the new rule (Supreme Court Rule 306A) was amended to automatically stay a termination order for 60 days, during which time a birth parent could file an appeal. DCFS

practice is to add one to 10 days to the process to allow sufficient time for notification and other circumstances. While this delay seems contradictory to the goal of moving adoptions forward expeditiously, it is required and does not necessarily have to halt the progress.

"There are still many things an agency could be doing during that period. Work on the adoption subsidy can continue. The prospective adoptive parents can select and meet with their adoption attorney. The attorney can review the subsidy. It is important to keep everything else moving," said Christina Schneider, DCFS Supervisory Regional Counsel.

If birth parents do not appeal the termination, the stay is automatically lifted at the end of 60 days. If they do file an appeal, the stay remains in affect as long as the appeal is pending, unless the Appellate Court lifts it. During the appeal, other provisions such as marking the file as a child custody case and imposing specific timeframes are intended to "fast track" the procedures. However, one change requiring the Appellate Court to rule on appeals from child custody cases within 150 days of docketing was later put on hold. Furthermore, with language such as "except for good cause shown" and the direction for the five Appellate Court districts in the state to enact their own procedures, there could likely be exceptions to the rule.



Online adoption course available for attachment training

Children adopted through the foster care system often need extra help forming healthy family bonds. Adoption Learning Partners has a new online course on its website called *The Journey of Attachment*. This is a course where families will learn about attachment, identify attachment-related behaviors, and practice parenting strategies that will help them build a strong attachment with their child.

As with the other Adoption Learning Partners courses, *The Journey of Attachment* is free of charge. Certificates of Completion are also available free of charge

to Illinois DCFS families. Follow the instructions on the website to apply for your certificate and the DCFS Office of Training and Development Services will be notified that you completed the course.

Another course that should be of interest to Illinois DCFS families is *Understanding the Adoption Tax Credit*. An important and very valuable provision of the law allows families who adopted domestic special needs children in 2003 to take the \$10,160 tax credit, even if you did not have adoption related expenses. This course makes the process easy to

understand so that you can take advantage of this adoption-friendly benefit.

These courses, as well as *Conspicuous Families: Race, Culture and Adoption* and *Let's Talk Adoption: A Lifetime of Family Conversations*, are available on the Adoption Learning Partners website, www.adoptionlearningpartners.org. Make sure to take advantage of this valuable resource.

For more information, visit the website or contact Vicki DuFour by phone (800-566-3995) or info@adoptionlearningpartners.org.

Who do you call when...

...You want information on becoming a foster parent or on adoption?

The Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI) can answer your questions and get you started with the licensing process. The toll-free number is 800-572-2390. AICI also maintains information about the children who are featured on the back page of the newsletter.

...You feel you aren't being treated fairly by DCFS or a private agency?

If you've tried to resolve the issue by going up the chain of command with the caseworker and supervisors, then call the Advocacy Office at 800-232-3798.

...You need to report a child missing or have information about a youth who has run away?

To report information on missing youth call 866-503-0184. The toll-free number is available 24 hours a day every day of the week.

...You have an idea for an article in the newsletter?

Each region has a regional reporter to help gather local news. The names and contact information are listed in the regional section of each edition. Or you can contact the Editor, Vanessa James, at 312-814-6824 by phone or e-mail vjames@idcfs.state.il.us

New Foster Family Handbooks available

An updated version of the Foster Family Handbook is now available for any family that wishes to order a replacement copy. Since it was first introduced in 1999, many foster and adoptive families have come to depend on the bright yellow notebook for information on the foster parent role. The new book reflects changes in the DCFS structure as well as new programs and policies.

Families that received a handbook through PRIDE training classes taken after October 2003 already have this version of the handbook.

To order a replacement, fill in the information below, clip this page and mail or fax it to: DCFS Office of Communications, 406 E. Monroe Street, Station 65, Springfield, IL 62701

217-524-0014 fax, 217-785-1700 phone

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Note: DCFS Staff can review the handbook on the DCFS website or order it through Central Stores. Private agency staff can order the handbooks through the regular channels.

Tell it Like it Is

Families, Now and Forever wants to hear the "real deal" on caring for children from those who know best — you!

The question for this issue is...

What advice can you offer families to keep the time off from school positive and productive?

You can contact me with your response by phone at 312-814-6824 or e-mail at vjames@idcfs.state.il.us. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Vanessa James, Editor

Corrections

DCFS Central Region's Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan was the first DCFS plan to finish in the top five scores. Children's Home Association's top five finish in 2003 was its second time among the highest scores.

Mailing Delays

The goal of the department is to publish six issues a year in regular, bi-monthly schedule. Because the newsletter is printed by DCFS using the in-house printing services, it is subject to the demand for all DCFS printed materials on top of a very lengthy development/approval process. Please know that all of the parties involved are committed to making necessary changes to bring readers information that is accurate, useful and timely.



Illinois Families Now and Forever

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Purpose: To help busy families more effectively parent children currently or formerly in DCFS care. To bring them the best information from the most knowledgeable sources. To promote statewide teamwork in finding permanency for children.

Address Changes: Families must notify their licensing representative, who will notify DCFS. Agencies should change addresses of office locations or request staff copies through the Editor.

Illinois Families Now and Forever is published six times a year, bi-monthly, and mailed to licensed foster parents, unlicensed relative caregivers, adoptive and guardianship families receiving subsidies, all DCFS staff and private agency staff as ordered. Material may not be reprinted in whole, in part or in any form whatsoever without permission from the Editor or DCFS. Opinions expressed by experts writing articles are no substitute for professional answers or opinions about a family's or child's specific situation. Consult a competent professional for answers to your specific questions.

A family for me

Yvonne and Devonna These sisters are as friendly a pair as you'll ever see! Yvonne, 13, (left) loves to talk to people. When she isn't engrossed in a conversation, she enjoys rollerskating, jumping rope, and riding her scooter. Her best subjects in school are math and spelling, and her favorite food is pizza. Devonna, 12, (right) plays the clarinet in her school band. Rollerskating and putting puzzles together are two of the things she likes to do most. She's always ready to join her sister for a pizza dinner, but she loves fried chicken just as much. Their foster parents described Yvonne and Devonna as sweet children who enjoy being helpful at home. Yvonne likes to play the role of big sister.

Joshua [C7270] Joshua, 9, describes himself as "a good guy and *very* cool." He's a charming, friendly young man with a great smile! Joshua can always find ways to occupy himself. He especially enjoys basketball, video games, and action toys. He also likes traveling and going to parties. He speaks fluent Spanish as well as English. Joshua gets pleasure from helping others, and he hopes to become a police officer or a therapist. His foster parent and teacher said he is respectful and extremely helpful. He loves going to church, where he looks forward to becoming a junior usher.

Kevin [C4983] Kevin, 13, is a talented artist who describes himself as "cool." For fun, he skateboards and plays video games and board games. He's especially good at games that require strategic thinking. He likes animals and would like to live in a home that has cats. Kevin likes reading and math and hopes to become a policeman or a social

worker so he can help other children. His workers said Kevin is playful and fun-loving and enjoys receiving attention from adults. His teachers said he works well on his own.

Cornelius [C5959] He'll jump at the opportunity to play a game of basketball! Cornelius, 15, who likes to be called C.J., also loves dogs. He enjoys playing video games as well as watching movies and keeping up with the latest rap and R&B music. He takes pride in his appearance. C.J. is interested in a restaurant-related career. His teacher and foster parent said that C.J. has a lot of enthusiasm and strives for self-improvement. His worker said he's fun to be around and a good teammate in sports.

Toby [C7055] Toby, 8, loves a mental challenge — he enjoys doing puzzles, and at school, his favorite subject is math. To relax, he plays video games and watches cartoons on TV. His favorite place to go is Burger King. Toby's teacher said that he's good at math. His foster mom said he's sweet and gets along with other kids.

Steven [C7340] If you have a computer and video games at home, Steven, 14, will come right over! He loves playing with computers. He's also enthusiastic about sports and the outdoors. He is excited to have been picked for a basketball team, and he enjoys fishing, hiking, and bike riding. Steven is getting good grades at school. His workers reported that Steven is eager to learn and, when he knows what is expected of him, he strives to do the right thing.

If you are interested in adopting one of these children or learning about other children waiting to be adopted, please call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 1-800-572-2390, or see the AICI web site — www.adoptinfo-il.org.

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DO YOU KNOW A FAMILY FOR ME?

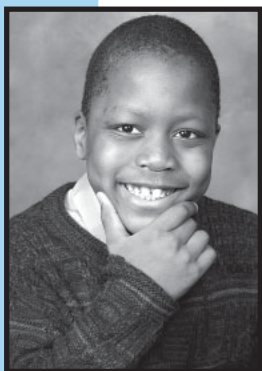


Yvonne & Devonna (6811-12)

**Clip and return the 2004
Reader Survey inside. We
want to hear from you!**

Inside this issue:

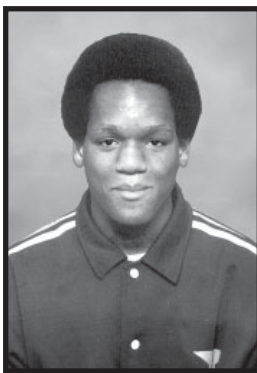
- Page 1** - Overview of new Integrated Assessment Program
- Page 2** - Plan now for summer camp and family fun
- Page 5** - Talk back on the 2004 Reader Survey
- Page 7** - Statewide Advisory Council Bulletin
- Page 8** - Illinois Adoption Advisory Council Update
- Page 9** - New court rules for termination appeals



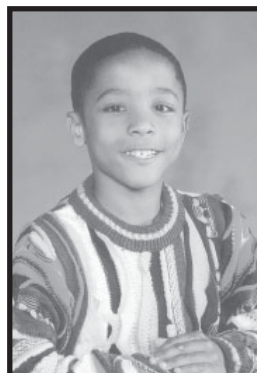
Joshua (7270)



Kevin (4983)



Cornelius (5959)



Toby (7055)



Steven (7340)

Call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois 800-572-2390.